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Belgrade Lakes Association 2017 Annual Meeting

Belgrade Lakes Association

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Belgrade Lakes Association 2017 Annual Meeting





BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING JULY 30, 2017

Welcome to the 2017 BLA Member Reception and Annual Meeting. We very much appreciate your participation in this important event.

The mission of the BLA is to *"protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond through preservation, education and action."* To that end, today's meeting will focus on the water quality of our lakes, including our work to mitigate invasive milfoil and excess phosphorous.

On behalf of the BLA Board of Directors I want to thank you for your membership, your generous financial support and your good stewardship of our lakes. Have a wonderful meeting and please don't hesitate to contact your board members with your ideas, concerns and suggestions for how we can better serve you and care for our lakes.

Lynn Matson
President

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Registration
- II. Social Hour and Refreshments by *Hello, Good Pie*
- III. Business Session
 - A. Board of Directors Election
 - B. Special LakeSmart Award
 - C. Recognitions
 - D. BRCA/MLRC Consolidation
- IV. Water Quality Presentations
 - A. STOP MILFOIL, Toni Pied, BRCA Milfoil Program Director
 - B. Water Quality Research Update, Dr. Whitney King, Colby College
 - C. Questions and Answers

2017 BLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Atkinson
John Atkinson
Polly Beatie
Dr. Andrew Cook
Pat Donahue

Paul Feinberg
Liz Fontaine
Stephanie Gardner
Dick Greenan
Carol Johnson

Richard Labelle
Bert Languet
Lynn Matson
Rhoads Miller
Gail Rizzo

Jack Schultz
Maggie Shannon
Bill Shontell
Tom Sidar
Stephanie Smith
Dr. Alex Wall

2017 BLA Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that as of the end of the fiscal year, December 31, 2016 your Belgrade Lakes Association remains in solid financial condition with total assets of \$607,491. This compares favorably with yearend 2015 total assets of \$444,117. Total revenue in 2016 was \$325,803, compared to \$331,201 in 2015. In 2016 you made another phenomenal contribution to the crucial Stop Milfoil challenge of \$200,370 compared with 2015's \$200,658. Operating expenses were \$167,863 including \$59,326 allocated to the Stop Milfoil effort. 2015 Stop Milfoil expenditures were \$95,971. 2014 Stop Milfoil expenditures were \$127,440.

As of June 30, 2017 the Belgrade Lakes Association is continuing to receive excellent support from you, the members, enabling the Association to move forward on numerous environmental and community efforts. As of June 30th membership dues are \$49,082 compared with \$49,116 at this time in 2016.

Thanks to your membership and generosity, BLA is able to sustain ongoing efforts to conserve the natural heritage of our Great and Long Ponds.

Thank you all for your continued support – it has never been more important.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Atkinson
Treasurer

2017 BLA Water Quality Report

Co-Chairs Dick Greenan and Maggie Shannon

For over a century the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) has worked to protect and preserve the beauty and benefits of Great and Long Ponds. Due to changing lake conditions, this historic mission now involves us in lake improvement as well, so we have developed a 3-pronged approach to preserve the lakes we cherish:

1. Prepare and implement an in-lake treatment to sequester nutrients;
2. Limit overland nutrient loading; and
3. Control Variable Leaf Milfoil in Great Pond and prevent new infestations in both lakes.

1. IN-LAKE TREATMENT TO SEQUESTER NUTRIENTS

While surface conditions of both ponds fall within in the medium range for Maine lakes today, we now know Great Pond's water quality will decline precipitately unless we stop internal nutrient loading from the deep sediments within the lake. Since Whitney King, Miselis Professor of Chemistry at Colby, first alerted BLA to the impending threat of algal blooms in Great Pond, we have striven to prepare for treating the lake. Here's a brief rundown of what is happening in this focus area this year. Please note that BLA collaborates with the Maine Lakes Resource Center and its partner Colby College who lead this effort.

Water Quality Research Team: Brenda Fekete, Science Manager for the Maine Lakes Resource Center, Assistant Scientist Logan Parker, and 9 Colby College summer interns are working in collaboration with Dr. Whitney King of Colby College and Dr. Ken Wagner, President of Water Resources Management of Massachusetts, to gather and analyze requisite data to map the interplay of forces affecting Great Pond water quality.

Getting the Data: Beginning the first week of May, this research team began collecting weekly measurements of important parameters on all 7 lakes in the Belgrade chain. These include temperature, Secchi disk depths which reveal water clarity, the amounts of dissolved oxygen found throughout the water column, pH measurements to indicate alkalinity, and analysis of the type and quantity of algae found in the lakes at a depth of 2 meters. Chlorophyll A, a direct measure of algal mass, is also being taken weekly. Biweekly samples to determine lake nutrient levels and the quantity and type of metal found are studied. Lake bottom sediments are sampled in both spring and fall. The data collected by this massive effort is essential for understanding water quality now, for predicting the pace of change to in-lake conditions, and for providing an exact baseline to plan and execute a successful treatment.

Readouts for Great and Long Ponds:

Location	Date	Secchi	Surface Temp	Thermocline	Bottom Temp	Dissolved Oxygen
Upper Long	7-20-17	6.4 M	77 F	6 M	50 F	21%
Lower Long	7-20-17	6.0 M	80 F	5 M	41 F	19%
Great (Hoyt's)	7-10-17	8.1 M	76 F	7 M	54 F	30%
Great (Goldie)	7-19-17	7.4 M	79 F	6.5 M	50 F	37%

Ongoing Gloeotrichia Project: BLA volunteers on both lakes have been monitoring the cyanobacteria Gloeotrichia at shoreline locations on Great and Long Ponds for over a decade. They were joined last summer by Colby interns who added monitoring from mid-lake locations. This summer, both groups became part of CyanoWatch, a national cyanobacteria monitoring program run by the Environmental Protection Agency which enables us to exchange information and learn from others nationally. BLA recently purchased 20 HOBO sensors for our volunteer monitors. The sensors broadcast light and temperature readings every 30 minutes from volunteer locations, improving volunteer data and adding to data collected by other researchers and Goldie. More shoreline volunteers are needed for this cutting edge data collection. If you would like to participate, please contact Logan Parker, 207-495-3617.

Drone Observations: Colby interns are experimenting with a DJI Phantom Drone to update the 2010 baseline photographic maps of Great and Long Pond shorelines. They are also planning to capture images that pinpoint the location of metaphyton and assess its movement in our two lakes. Metaphyton, also known as pillow algae, has been more abundant in recent years. In future, it may be possible to locate milfoil colonies and Gloeotrichia blooms by this means.

2) ENDING OVERLAND NUTRIENT LOADING

Nutrients also enter our lakes via stormwater runoff and snowmelt. This type of nutrient loading is called Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution because it originates everywhere, not just from one point. Experts call it *Death by a thousand cuts*, and it's the original source of those nutrients in Great Pond sediments that we need to sequester. (For Long Pond residents wondering why all the attention is on Great, remember that 60% of Long Pond's water flows into it over the dam in Belgrade Lakes, so improving Great Pond conditions will do the same for her sister simultaneously.) BLA supports two complementary programs to eliminate this type of pollution: LakeSmart and BRCA's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC).

LakeSmart is a homeowner education program that goes beyond awareness to action. Our trained volunteers provide free visits to interested homeowners and make site-specific suggestions of fixes to protect water quality. The point of it all is to stop rainwater, which carries with it unwanted nutrients and pollutants, from washing across the land and entering lake waters. *If every shorefront homeowner participates in LakeSmart, our costly in-lake treatment will last much longer.*

BLA's new LakeSmart Program Director is Barbara Barrett. She reports that "BLA's LakeSmart program has picked up its pace for a full summer of activity, with 17 LakeSmart visits completed yielding 12 Awards and 5 Commendations already. We have 20 more appointments in the pipeline and are seeking to sign up more before the season ends in mid-September. Please contact the BLA office at 207-512-5150 or email to lakesmart@blamaine.org for a visit, and we will get back to you.

I wish to thank all the volunteers who are out performing LakeSmart visits and educating our lakeshore owners. Most importantly I thank those homeowners who have taken time to let us visit, to pass on our knowledge and to constantly be improving their properties to ensure the lasting quality of our lakes."

Youth Conservation Corps: BLA helps subsidize this BRCA program which provides technical assistance and free labor to fix Nonpoint Source pollution around the lakes. On average, the Corps completes 100 installations each year, 40% of which have been on Great and Long Ponds in recent years. Typical projects include buffer planting, erosion control steps, rain gardens and riprap. Homeowners buy the materials, pay a small administrative fee and receive free labor. Corps Director Nathan Durant provides expert technical assistance by designing best practices to address problems, providing cost estimates, securing necessary permits and ordering supplies, then crew members do the installation. If you have an erosion problem, call Nathan at 207-495-6039.

3) STOP MILFOIL

BLA partners with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance to implement our highly effective STOP MILFOIL Campaign designed and chaired by BLA President, Lynn Matson. This is a multi-faceted program under the capable management of Toni Pied, BRCA Milfoil Director.

Control: Thanks to our members, BLA's fundraising has been extremely successful, enabling us to field several approaches for controlling milfoil. Most notably, we have been able to finance a professional dive team, New England Milfoil, for several years to harvest and thus reduce the Variable Leaf Milfoil infestation in the Great Meadow Stream (GMS). 4,135 gallons have been harvested so far this year. We also pay a team of summer interns who spend part of their time removing milfoil. Both teams carefully capture plants and harvested fragments and cover harvested areas with light-excluding barriers on the lake bottom to deter milfoil re-growth.

Prevention: The BRCA DASH boat is now equipped with a light array which the summer interns use to survey the lake bottom at night for new growths of invasive aquatic plants. On calm nights, this efficient rig can see long distances underwater, ably assisting early identification and removal efforts. Most of North Bay has already been surveyed, and the new growth found is mostly confined to the Surface Area Restriction area near the mouth of GMS. We also pay our summer interns to survey the perimeter and streams of Great and Long Ponds as part of our early detection strategy; no new infestations have been found so far this year. TJ Marcoux, one of our interns, teaches interested homeowners how to identify milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants as part of the *Adopt a Shoreline* program. Our hope is that one day our lakeshores will be fully protected against unwanted plants by homeowners who enjoy kayaking and keeping a lookout for these invaders. Call Toni Pied or TJ for information on how to get on board with this important and interesting activity, 207-495-6039.

Since 2002, BLA has stationed Courtesy Boat Inspectors at public boat launches of Great and Long Ponds. Both paid CBI's and trained volunteers man these critical control points 7 days a week, and we can always use more volunteers, especially after August 15th when our student CBI's start returning to school. This often leaves the busy Labor Day weekend short on protection. Again, Toni is the go-to person if you'd like to help out. 207-495-6039.

You, our members, make all this possible. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Shannon, Co-Chair

2017 BLA Membership Report

Thank you for your support of the Belgrade Lakes Association. The BLA has worked to protect and improve our watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond through preservation, education and action. Thanks to people like you we are succeeding in this important mission.

We cannot do this without you. We need everyone on board to meet our goal of making sure the lakes remain viable for future generations. We want to pass these lakes to the next generation so they can continue to be the heart and soul of the Belgrade experience. Whether you are a waterfront owner, summer resident, occasional visitor or year-round resident, help us keep this special spot SPECIAL!

This year we issued a request to increase our membership. We have had 10 members who have introduced at least three new supporters to BLA. Kudos to the hard work and dedication of these folks-and a special Thank You to Matthew and Missy Craig who gifted their extended family with 8 memberships! What better way to pass along the tradition. We are now 448 strong with 52 new members-and counting. Join us and invite your friends, family and neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Johnson, Chairperson

2017 BLA Development Committee Report

Thanks to the strong support of our members and friends of the BLA, our development efforts have been very successful this past year. Our total assets were up 38% at the end of 2016 vs. the previous year. Our annual raffle last year was up 22% from 2015 to \$29,815 and ticket sales of our 2016 BLA Summer Raffle hit an all-time high of \$34,194.

The STOP MILFOIL Capital Campaign has also been very successful, providing the funds needed to continue our aggressive action plan of removing invasive milfoil from Great Pond while keeping it from spreading into Long Pond. Thanks to your generosity and support we have now raised \$1,001,723 since the STOP MILFOIL Capital Campaign was launched in January 2012. Thank you!

The spirit of generosity with regards to our lakes is not only heartwarming but also critically important in terms of their future. Thank you for caring so much about these precious assets.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Matson, Chair

2017 BLA Raffle Committee

The Belgrade Lakes Association's Summer Raffle is one of the most important fundraisers we have in supporting our mission: "To protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond through Preservation, Education and Action".

Our 2016 Summer Raffle was another record with \$34,194 in sales, not only due to our precious and dedicated Raffle Volunteers and Board but that incredible weather.

And as we have never been known for resting on our laurels, for 2017 our local sponsors have donated an incredible \$42,983 in prizes! Please support our sponsors when you can for without them, we would not have a Summer Raffle.

I also want to extend a sincere Thank You to all of our Raffle Volunteers and Board Members for their continued support in this worthwhile endeavor.

We also want to extend a special Thanks to Days Store for their continued assistance in selling Raffle tickets in the off hours. As of this writing, our 2017 Summer Raffle is off to a good start and right on forecast. Enjoy your summer and Thanks to all for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Greenan, Chairperson

2017 BLA Communications Committee report

We had another superb year helping the lake community better understand our lakes and the concerns the lakes face.

- Our newsletters, produced by Liz Fontaine and Polly Beatie, do a superb job of keeping us all up to date on progress on lake water quality.
- Of course, our annual meeting provides an opportunity for us all to hear technical updates about phosphorous, iron, oxygen balance, lake temperature by depth and time and the potential for algae blooms (like East Pond experiences annually).
- Further, our President, Lynn Matson, has emerged as a credible, senior statesman, spoke person for the entire set of Belgrade lakes. This is evident to in his letters and also how he has handled several public meetings with various communities, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Maine Department of Transportation, and even us!
- Likewise, Dick Greenan has done yeoman's work in publicizing the lake concerns both through his tireless leadership on the raffle and also through his efforts on our web page.
- And, special kudos to the entire team that ran our first annual meeting children's meeting highlighted by a great video on our web page created by Nakeysa Hooglund (age 14).

On top of all this we have managed to get the home mailing addresses of every Great Pond and Long Pond waterfront owner who is not currently a member of the BLA team. There are about as many people who are

not members as there are people who are members. So we have together achieved a tremendous success in terms of joining and mobilizing ourselves. Our near term goal is to get these additional 500 people on board with us, preferably as BLA members. In this way anyone on Great Pond and Long Pond will be part of the team concerned about the lakes' future and participating in the lakes' protection and preservation.

One theme that has really hit home for us, for others in the community and even in our RSU 18 Schools is the concept that **we are stewards of these lakes and indeed the entire region**. Without us to watch over the situations and take action, who will? Indeed there is the Maine Lakes Resource Center and also the Belgrade Regional Conservation alliance. But in terms of a laser focus on Great Pond and Long Pond – it's us - the BLA.

I am proud to say that there is hardly a person you can meet now who is not aware of the milfoil and phosphorous issues. Further our collective communication and knowledge has done so well that the tension is not about not knowing, the tension has changed to anxiety about what will be done, when and how soon? As curious as it may seem, this tension is a very positive sign. It means people understand and are deeply concerned.

As Dr. Whitney King has said, "We want to return the lakes to a good iron/aluminum balance (in their sediment water chemistry)." If we can bring the lakes back to that healthy balance then indeed we will be collectively achieving our mission – protecting and preserving – as good stewards.

East Pond appears ready to make a step forward next year and undertake an alum treatment on their lake. It is forecasted to be successful. This will result in the first time, in many years, that they have avoided their August pea soup algae bloom. It will for sure be a heartening and confidence building indicator for all of us in the BLA.

Communication is a team effort. Every one of you is part of the team.

I proud and happy to tell you all – **JOB WELL DONE!**

Keep at it.

**Protect and preserve
Stewards of the Belgrade Lakes**

Dr. Andrew Cook

New BLA Board Member George A. Atkinson, Jr.



George and his family have summered in the Belgrades for many years and have been members of the BLA all along. George and his wife, Kathy, now live year round in their home on Long Pond in Belgrade. A graduate of Ursinus College and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, George served in the US Navy before joining IBM, where he was in sales management until his retirement. He is the father of two sons and likes to sail, snowshoe and share the area with family and friends. Welcome George.

BRCA and MLRC Combine

Last month the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) and the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC) signed an agreement to join forces and build a new organization. The new BRCA will be well positioned to respond to the ongoing threat of invasive milfoil and the growing problem of excess phosphorous in the Belgrade Lakes. It will be more cost efficient and have greater financial, scientific and human resources than either the BRCA or MLRC by itself. The combined entity will also allow for more unified messaging, less redundancy and fewer donor appeals.

Legally, the BRCA is the surviving entity but operationally they are a new organization with a new board of directors. Members of the new board include:

Ted Alfond	Scott Finlay	Tom Klingenstein	Gail Rizzo
Matti Bradley	Dick Greenan	Seth Lawry	Maggie Shannon
Chris Cook	Pete Kallin	Lynn Matson	Bill Swan
Mel Croft	Denny Keschl	Tom McCandlish	Dr. Alex Wall
Pat Donahue	Dr. Whitney King	Diane Oliver	

The BLA will continue to operate as a separate member-based non-profit lake association, just as we have for the last 109 years. Our mission will not change. We will continue to protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond. At the same time we will support, work closely with and do everything we can to help the New BRCA achieve its mission. We all want clean lakes for the generations to come. If you have questions please call Lynn Matson, (207) 716-6094.

Contact Information

Belgrade Lakes Association	Lynn Matson President	(207) 716-6094 lynnmatson@gmail.com
STOP MILFOIL & Adopt-A-Shoreline	Toni Pied BRCA Milfoil Program Director	(207) 215-2685 brcamf@belgradelakes.org
LakeSmart	Barbara Barrett BLA LakeSmart Coordinator	(207) 512-5150 lakesmart@blamaine.org
BRCA Youth Conservation Corps	Nathan Durant Conservation Corps Program Director	(207) 931-8791 brcacc@belgradelakes.org